

METHOD OF INSTALLING AN EDGE PIECE  
ON A BATTERY PLATE AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A method for placing an edge piece on a battery plate includes bending a thin strip of bendable plastic material into an open top, U-shaped channel. The channel is then cut into an edge piece having a length which is substantially equal to the edge of the battery plate  
10   which is to be covered. The edge piece is supported with this open top oriented towards a battery plate that is transported toward it in a manner such that the battery plate edge will be inserted into it. Once the edge of the battery plate has been inserted into the edge piece  
15   the edge piece is released so that the battery plate can be carried out of the apparatus. An apparatus for accomplishing this includes a feed mechanism which transports the strip of bendable plastic material. A bending mechanism forms this strip into the open top,  
20   U-shaped channel. The channel is then fully inserted into an assembly station where a first sensor stops the feed mechanism and a cutter cuts the channel into the proper-sized edge piece. An in-feed conveyor transports a battery plate toward the edge piece, and a support  
25   mechanism supports the edge piece while the edge of the battery plate is inserted into it. The support mechanism then releases the edge piece so that it can travel out of the insertion station with the battery plate. A second sensor restarts the feed mechanism once the battery plate  
30   is completely out of the assembly station.